

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CRIMINAL NO. 04-10387-RGS
)	
WILLIE DANCY)	
)	

MOTION TO EXAMINE JURY QUESTIONNAIRES BEFORE VOIR DIRE

Defendant, Willie Dancy, moves this Court to grant counsel for both parties access to questionnaires that have been filled out by prospective jurors and returned to the Clerk's Office for the United States District Court. Counsel wishes to review the veniremen's answers to questions on the questionnaire in advance of jury selection in this case, which will take place on February 4, 2008.

The juror questionnaires contain information that is clearly pertinent to the qualifications of the respondents to sit, and review of the information provided in advance of juror selection would aid all parties in the intelligent exercise of their peremptory challenges. For example, the questionnaires contain information about a given juror's level of education, his or her degree of fluency in English, whether he or she holds public office or serves in the military, or has ever been convicted of a crime. This information is not provided to the parties on the printed jury sheets given to counsel in the courtroom moments before the panels appear for voir dire. Moreover, the usual scope of questioning of prospective jurors under current local practice does not in the normal course elicit the information referenced above. Yet this information is on hand and available to the Clerk of the Courts because it has been provided in the juror questionnaire. It has the most relevance and usefulness to the actual litigants, and by this

motion undersigned counsel prays this court that defense and government opposing counsel be given access to this information.

Although the District of Massachusetts has no rule of court governing the handling of jury questionnaires, the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire does have a pertinent local rule allowing the parties access to the jury questionnaires in advance of voir dire. The New Hampshire rule, Local Rule 47.1 of the Rules of the District Court provides as follows:

The clerk's office shall maintain and make available a list of petit jurors currently serving, together with copies of completed questionnaire forms, to attorneys and their agents and to pro se parties actually involved in cases scheduled for trial. Those persons shall not disclose information the jurors provide nor shall the questionnaires be photocopied or removed from the clerk's office. The court may further limit the inspection of juror information for good cause. Violation of this rule may be treated a contempt of court. (Emphasis added).

Counsel requests that this Court to adopt New Hampshire practice and allow counsel to inspect the questionnaires submitted by the persons appearing on the panels to be assigned to this session for trial on February 4, 2008. This motion is being routinely allowed in this court. Judge Zobel allowed access to juror questionnaires in United States v. Joseph Palermo, No. 06-10171-RWZ and in United States v. Rey Velazquez, No. 06-10060-RWZ. In addition, Judge Tauro allowed access to juror questionnaires pursuant to an identical motion in United States v. Trent Miller, No. 06-10291-JLT. Judge Saris allowed access to juror questionnaires in United States v. Trevor Charlton, No. 04-10306-PBS and United States v. Victor Diaz, No. 06-10191; Judge Gertner allowed access to juror questionnaires in United States v. Handy, 04-10361-NG;

and Judge Saylor allowed access to juror questionnaires in United States v. Samir Al-Monla, No. 05-40026-FDS.

Counsel requests that the attorneys in this matter be allowed to inspect and examine the questionnaires on Friday, February 1, 2007.

WILLIE DANCY
By his attorney,

/s/Oscar Cruz, Jr.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

____ I, Oscar Cruz, Jr., hereby certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to the registered participant, Assistant United States Attorney Antoinette Leoney, as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) on January 28, 2008.

/s/Oscar Cruz, Jr.
Oscar Cruz, Jr.